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**RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

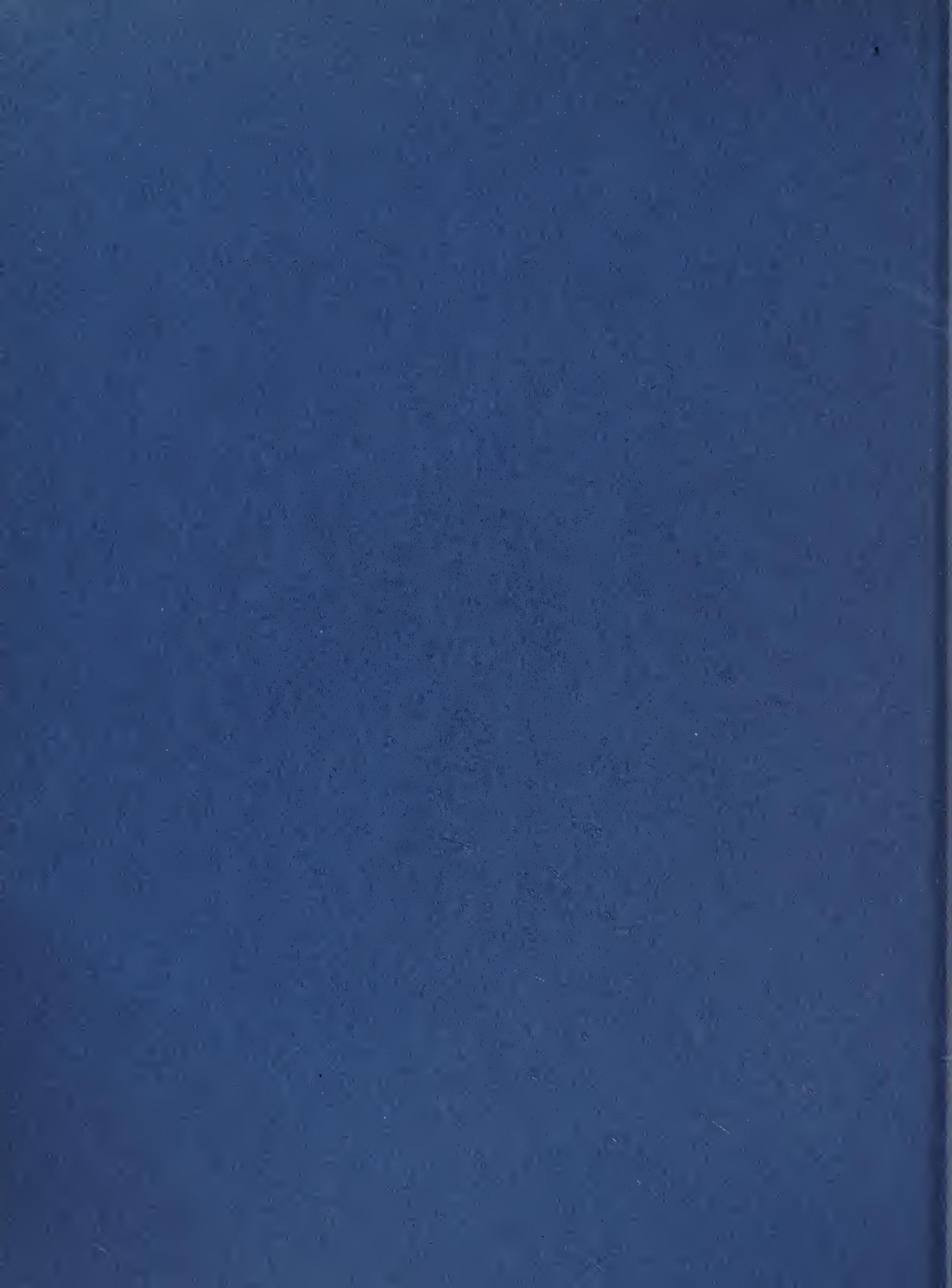
**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

**OF HEALTH**

**for the Year**

**1956**



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural  
District Council.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1956.

The total number of births increased by 14 and the number of deaths decreased by 10, as compared with the figures for 1955. The standard birth rate, at 16.59 per 1,000, was higher than in the previous year and also higher than the national rate, which was 15.7 per 1,000.

The crude death rate showed a slight decrease, since the number of deaths was smaller and the estimated population unchanged, but, owing to the fact that the Registrar General raised the comparability factor from 1.16 to 1.22, the standard death rate was almost identical with that for 1955.

The still birth rate was lower than in 1955 and also lower than the rate for the country as a whole and the maternal mortality rate was nil.

The total number of infant deaths under 1 year was 8, an increase of one over the number occurring in 1955 and this resulted in an increase in the infantile death rate from 26.12 in 1955 to 28.37 per 1,000 related live births, in 1956.

Of the 8 deaths under 1 year, 6 occurred under the age of 2 weeks, of these 5 were due to congenital abnormalities which were, at least in our present state of knowledge, probably unavoidable. The neonatal mortality thus represents 75% of the total infant mortality.

An outbreak of Dysentery in the early months of the year involved the health department in a great amount of extra work, details of the outbreak are given later in the report.

No other epidemic of note occurred during the year.

Unfortunately the number of notified new cases of tuberculosis showed a substantial increase, 10 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory cases, as against 6 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory in 1955. On the other hand, not a single death was attributed to tuberculosis in any form. This again, as mentioned last year, reflects the current trend in tuberculosis, which although it is by no means defeated, is being very effectively treated.

The provision of modern sewage works for Longhirst Village was the only scheme of any size, completed during the year.

The housing problem still remains one of considerable magnitude and the question of how to deal with the substandard houses in the district has occupied a considerable part of the time of the Health Committee. During the year, however, only two houses were actually demolished and one was permanently closed.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Councillors for the consideration they have shown me and to express by appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspectors and of the help I have received from other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

**C. B. McGREGOR,**  
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Morpeth.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Medical Officer of Health .....	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer .....	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health	
Housing Inspector .....	Mr. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs.
Meat	Meat Inspector's Certificates.
Additional Public Health Inspector .....	Mr. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs. Meat Inspector's Certificates.
Offices of the Rural District Council .....	Dacre Street, Morpeth.
Telephone .....	Morpeth 24.
Offices of the Medical Officer .....	146 Station Road, Ashington.
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## SECTION A STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The acreage and boundaries of the Morpeth Rural District remain unchanged and the Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population, too, remained the same in 1956 as it was in 1955.

The main industries are agriculture and coal-mining. There are collieries at Pegswood, Lynemouth, Ellington, Stobswood and Broomhill and the greater part of the population lives in these areas. Lynemouth pit is the most modern one and a great expansion of mining is envisaged there, including the establishment of a new town. Plans provide for the transfer of miners from Ashington, Newbiggin and other places but this is being strongly opposed by these towns which fear an adverse effect on their social and economic life.

A drift mine has been opened in recent years at Longhirst where further expansion is anticipated. Open-cast coal-mining is being very extensively carried out, particularly in the Widdrington and Druridge areas where it is expected to continue for many years. A new site has, also, been opened up near Tranwell. This form of mining gives rise to many complaints, particularly in dry weather, when the enormous quantities of dust raised by the mining activities cause discomfort and inconvenience to those residing in the neighbourhood and also, at times, to farm animals. The Open Cast Executive does make efforts to mitigate the nuisance but, unfortunately, to little effect, since the very large areas involved make effective control of dust a matter of great difficulty.

Agriculture is the main and, indeed almost the only industry, in the western part of the district, involving a much larger area with a much smaller population. Most of the farming consists of stock feeding but there is also some arable land and a considerable amount of milk production. The question of providing adequate and wholesome water supplies and efficient sewerage in this part of the area continues to present difficult problems to the responsible committees and to the Council.

Area in Acres .....	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1956 .....	17,860
Rateable Value .....	£142,784
One Penny Rate Produces .....	£564-1-2
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) .....	5,121

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	267	132	135
Illegitimate .....	15	7	8
	282	139	143

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .....	15.79
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.05) .....	16.59

Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	4	3	1
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births .....	17.42		
Rate per 1,000 of the population .....	0.28		

#### DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
190	114	76

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....	10.64
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.22) .....	12.98
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) .....	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .....	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:	Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate .....	6	3

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:		
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	28.37	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	29.96	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	33	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	1.	

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
16. Diabetes	2	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	15
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	17	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
20. Other Heart Diseases	12	13
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	6	1
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	2
24. Bronchitis	7	4
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	13	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
34. All other Accidents	8	2
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	114	76

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—
	3	5

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1956.

Cause of Death	Under	1 - 6	1	2	3	Total	1 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	Total under 1 year
	1 day	days	week	weeks	weeks	under 1 month	mths	mths	mths	months	
Acute Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital Abnormality	2	2	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Prematurity .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	3	2	1	—	—	6	1	—	—	1	8

The following Table shows the Comparative Mortality Rate during the past ten years:

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Enteritis under 2 years .....	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year .....	12	13	7	12	10	7	5	4	7	8
Infantile Mortality .....	37.62	40.60	21.87	40.26	38.02	24.22	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57

## Principal Causes of Death, 1956.

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation .....	62	32.63
Malignant Neoplasms .....	33	17.37
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	28	14.72

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis .....	3	37
General Practitioner .....	Pus for Pathogenic Organisms .....	—	1
General Practitioner .....	Nasal Swab for H. Pertussis .....	—	1
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Vincent's Angina .....	1	11
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for Vincent's Angina .....	—	2
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	7	13
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	4	—
General Practitioners .....	Swabs for Staphylococci .....	5	3
Medical Officer of Health .....	Swabs for Staphylococci .....	—	2
General Practitioner .....	Swabs for C. Diphtheria .....	—	21
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Swabs for C. Diphtheria .....	—	1
General Practitioners .....	Blood for Paul-Bunnell Test .....	—	3
General Practitioners .....	Blood for Widal .....	—	2
Medical Officer of Health .....	Blood for Complement Fixation Test	5	1
General Practitioners .....	Urine for Pathogenic Organisms .....	2	1
Medical Officer of Health .....	Urine for Pathogenic Organisms .....	—	9
General Practitioners .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	32	30
Medical Officer of Health .....	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .....	132	307

## **Ambulance Facilities**

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances are stationed at Broomhill where garage accommodation in the Colliery Yard is rented from the National Coal Board. There are three drivers employed here, and the area served includes the north-eastern part of Morpeth Rural District, the Amble Urban District and part of Alnwick Rural District. A new ambulance station is being built at Hadstone Road, South Broomhill.

The Linton, Ellington and Lynemouth areas are served mainly by ambulances stationed in Ashington and the remaining parts of the Rural District by ambulances stationed in Morpeth. Ambulances stationed at the Broomhill and Ashington Depots are fitted with radio receiving and transmitting sets and can be directed from fixed radio stations at Ashington and Wideopen.

## **Nursing in the Home**

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by the County Council and nurse-midwives are stationed as follows:

Scotsgap 1; Meldon 1; Felton 1; Broomhill 2; Widdrington 1; Lynemouth 1.

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by three nurse-midwives based in Morpeth.

## **Clinics**

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council, and Clinics are held at the following centres.

### **Infant Welfare Clinics**

Acklington: (Aerodrome).

Cambo: Village Hall.

Linton: Miners' Welfare.

Longhorsley: Rose Cottage.

Lynemouth: Methodist Church Hall.

Pegswood: Parish Hall.

Red Row: Parish Hall.

Widdrington: Social Club.

### **Toddlers' Clinics**

Red Row: Parish Hall.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation (Special Sessions)**

Lynemouth: Methodist Church Hall.

Red Row: Parish Hall.

### **Ante-Natal Clinics**

Lynemouth: Methodist Church Hall.

Acklington: (Aerodrome).

A new Child Welfare Centre is being built beside the new ambulance station at Hadstone Road, South Broomhill. This will provide up-to-date premises and facilities for the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in Broomhill, Red Row and East Chevington.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supplies

No new sources of water supplies were opened up during the year and the main sources and methods of distribution remain substantially unaltered. Some parts of the district, notably the southwestern area are poorly supplied and in great need of adequate and reliable water supplies. The needs of these areas are very much in the minds of members of the Public Health Committee and have received anxious consideration. The size of the area to be serviced and the sparseness of the population makes the problem difficult and very costly to solve.

#### Water Samples

Twenty-eight samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Westgate Road, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination.

The bacteriological results are as follows:

Date	Place of Collection	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
11. 4.56	Storage tank, local, borehole supply, Eshott .....	Nil
11. 4.56	Feed pipe tank, R.A.F. supply, Eshott .....	Nil
11. 4.56	Tap, Causey Park Farm Cottages .....	Nil
2. 6.56	Tap, North Side, Meldon .....	Nil
2. 6.56	Tap, Hartburn School .....	Nil
2. 6.56	Tap, Post Office, Middleton .....	25
2. 6.56	Tap, High Angerton .....	1
6. 6.56	Tap, Netherwitton .....	Nil
6. 6.56	Tap, Longwitton .....	Nil
6. 6.56	Tap, Hilltop, Longwitton .....	Nil
6. 6.56	Tap, Farm Cottages, Thornton .....	Nil
20. 6.56	Tap, Linden Square, Longhorsley .....	Nil
20. 6.56	Standpipe, Longhorsley Village .....	2
27. 6.56	Standpipe, Stone Row, Broomhill .....	Nil
27. 6.56	Tap, 28 Hartside Terrace, East Chevington .....	Nil
27. 6.56	Standpipe, Near Sandon, West Chevington .....	180+
12. 9.56	Tap, 4 Hedgehope Terrace, Red Row .....	3
12. 9.56	Tap, 3, Woodside Farm Cottage, Broomhill .....	50
12. 9.56	Tap, Close House, Wallington, Cambo .....	5
12. 9.56	Tap, The Vicarage, Hartburn, Morpeth .....	180+
18. 9.56	Tap, at Hartburn Vicarage, Morpeth (School Supply) .....	1
18. 9.56	Rising main from pump, Hartburn Vicarage .....	180+
17.10.56	Tap, direct from pump, Shallow Well, Station House, Meldon .....	Nil
17.10.56	Tap, Farm House, Land Spring, Meldon Village .....	Nil
17.10.56	Tap, Cottage, Throphill (Land Spring) .....	Nil
30.10.56	Tap, West Thirston, Cottage (Alnwick R.D.C. Supply) .....	Nil
30.10.56	Tap, Cottage Bridge End, West Thirston (Land Spring) .....	1
12.12.56	Well, West Farm, Throphill .....	2

#### Drainage and Sewerage

**Longhirst:** The work of installing a modern sewage treatment plant was completed in March, 1956.

The following works were undertaken during the year:

**New Drains:** Longhirst (10), Ellington (1), Barmoor (1), Longhorsley (2), Scots Gap (1).

**New Drains and Septic Tanks:** East Thirston (1), Hepscott (3).

#### Alterations and Improvements

Repairs to property have been carried out at Pegswood, Lynemouth, Linton, and Broomhill, by the National Coal Board. Many private owners have repaired houses after informal notice.

## **Closet Accommodation**

Several Privy Conversions have been made and W.C.'s. have been provided as follows:

Longhirst	10	Longhorsley	2
Hepscott	4	Scots Gap	1
East Thirston	1	Angerton	10

## **Schools**

There are 18 schools in the district and all have a sufficient water supply. At the end of the year two schools, Hepscott and West Thirston, were still without the water carriage system of sanitation.

## **Public Cleansing**

The collection and disposal of refuse for the whole area is carried out by the Public Health Department. Five Motor Vehicles, four of 10 cubic yards, one of 12 cubic yards capacity, and one horse with a specially constructed cart are employed in this work.

The majority of the bins are emptied twice a week. The number of houses and business premises in the district is 5,040 excluding the houses on the R.A.F. station, Acklington, and the population is 17,860.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 10,841 tons and the estimated cost per ton for collection and disposal is 18/8½d.

The mileage travelled by the five motor vehicles was 38,688.

## **Moveable Dwellings**

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings .....	2
Renewal licences .....	6

## **Site Licences**

Number of licences granted (new) .....	Nil
Renewal licences .....	1

The Council's Caravan Site at Cresswell continues to be well patronised.

## **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

Number of Private Houses found to be infested during the year .....	2
Number of Council Houses found to be infested during the year .....	Nil
Number of Houses disinfected during the year .....	Nil

## **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

The scavenging tips, sewers, disposal works and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received attention from the Council's Rodent Operator.

## **Situation of Tips**

Broomhill 1: East Chevington 1: Widdrington 1: Longhirst 1: Pegswood 1: Hepscott 1: Lynemouth 1: Longhorsley 1.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1948

There are in the district 35 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power. The following table gives the number of inspections made during the year.

There are no outworkers in the area.

### 1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	33	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .....	33	71	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
Total .....	35	104	—	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	2	1	—	—	—

## SECTION D

### TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1956.

#### Number of New Houses erected during the year:

Houses completed during the year:

(a) By Local Authority .....	91
(b) By other Bodies or Persons .....	11

#### Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas .....	—
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas .....	2
3. Houses closed, not demolished .....	1
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	—

#### Repairs

Number of Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

1. By informal action .....	16
2. By owners, following statutory notice .....	7
3. By Local Authority in default of owners.....	—
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction .....	—

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: HOUSING ACT, 1949

	No. of Separate Houses
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year .....	28
2. Applications rejected .....	—
3. Applications approved .....	28
4. Approximate average grant approved per house .....	£282-0-0d.
5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme .....	140

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Milk.** No. of Registered Dairies ..... 4

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on samples taken during the year:

Total number of samples taken ..... 14

#### **Milk, 1956**

Total number of samples taken .....	14
Producers Inside the Rural District.....	7
Producers Outside the Rural District .....	7

#### **1. Farms Inside the Rural District.**

Tuberculin Tested .....	3 samples
2 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	
1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.	
3 samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — all negative.	

#### **Farms Inside the Rural District.**

Undesignated .....	4 samples
3 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	
1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.	
4 samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — all negative.	

#### **2. Farms Outside the Rural District.**

Pasteurised .....	4 samples
3 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	
1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.	

#### **Farms Outside the Rural District.**

Tuberculin Tested .....	3 samples
2 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	
1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.	
1 sample examined for B. Tuberculosis — negative.	

#### **Food Premises.**

(1) The number of Food Premises in the area is as below:

Butchers Shops .....	6
Bakers .....	2
General Dealers .....	41
	49

(2) The number of Food Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Butchers .....	5
Fried Fish Shops .....	4
Sale of Ice Cream .....	21
No. of Registered Dairies .....	4
	34

(3) The number of inspections of the above Food Premises was 590. In a few cases it was found necessary to draw the owners' attention to the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955 and our requests were complied with, without Statutory action. The above premises have installed Electric Water Heaters which provide an abundant supply of really hot water at a moment's notice.

(4) The method adopted for disposal of condemned food is by burning or burial.

## Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) .....	353	—	—	770	372	—
Number inspected .....	353	—	—	770	372	—

### All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole Carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	3	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	154	—	—	8	8	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or Cysticerci	43.626	—	—	1.039	2.15	—

### Tuberculosis only

Whole Carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	5	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	1.41	—	—	—	1.806	—

### Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspectors:

Cooked Ham .....	13 tins	121 lbs. 12 ozs.
Pork .....	7 tins	8 lbs. 8 ozs.
Tongue .....	5 tins	4 lbs. 4 ozs.
Steak .....	4 tins	3 lbs. 15 ozs.
Sausages .....	1 tin	14 ozs.
Pork Luncheon Meat .....	4 tins	22 lbs. 4 ozs.
Corned Beef .....	7 tins	26 lbs. 4 ozs.
Minced Beef Loaf .....	4 tins	3 lbs.
Sliced Beef .....	2 tins	2 lbs.
Gammon .....	1 tin	10 lbs. 3 ozs.
Salmon .....	1 tin	7½ ozs.
Scotch Broth .....	1 tin	
Chicken Soup .....	2 tins	1 lb. 15 ozs.
Peas .....	15 tins	14 lbs. 3 ozs.
Beans .....	6 tins	5 lbs. 13 ozs.
Tomatoes .....	30 tins	32 lbs. 6 ozs.
Pears .....	7 tins	7 lbs. 9 ozs.
Apricots .....	2 tins	3 lbs. 10 ozs.
Strawberries .....	1 tin	15½ ozs.
Oranges .....	1 tin	11 ozs.
Evaporated Milk 4 tins 5½ pints .....	1 tin	6 ozs.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
UNDER AGE GROUPS.**

Disease													Total	Admitted to Hospital	
	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years & over		
Measles ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	8	7	8	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	44	..
Dysentery	..	..	12	1	20	11	31	12	12	1	2	4	1	88	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	1	8	..

#### **Sonne Dysentery**

This was the most prevalent notifiable infectious disease in the district in 1956.

In all, there were notified, or discovered, 88 cases, of which 74 occurred in an outbreak which began at the end of January, in the Red Row, East Chevington and South Broomhill area. At this time an epidemic was already in progress in Amble, a town with which the Broomhill area has many contacts and it is, at least, possible that the outbreak in the latter area resulted from a spread of infection from the prior epidemic.

Two of the cases in the district occurred in children attending a school in Amble and, as they appeared to have no connection with other cases in Morpeth Rural District it is assumed that they contracted the infection at school.

The outbreak followed the pattern which has become so familiar in recent years. It took place in the coldest months of the year, the earliest discovered cases were in children attending the infant school and there were probably many more cases than those actually notified or discovered.

In the early stages of the epidemic, cases in other age groups were almost entirely confined to households in which there were children who attended Red Row Infant School. Later, some older school children were affected and there was some spread of infection to a few households with no school connection. This indicated that, outside the school, infection, no doubt, spread between children at play.

Among children attending the infant school there were 22 cases notified and 6 symptomless carriers were discovered.

There were multiple cases in 22 households, of which 14 had children attending the school.

Some cases occurred at Widdrington and Druridge but, in every instance, the patient was a pupil at Red Row schools or a household contact of such a pupil, who was either a patient or a symptomless carrier.

Investigations were pursued energetically and advice was given to the teachers on methods designed to check the spread of infection. No child, who complained of diarrhoea was allowed to remain in school, a liberal use of disinfectant was advised for cleaning the school lavatories, each child had to bring his or her own hand towel to school and a circular letter of advice was sent to all parents with children at the school.

The importance of hand-washing was emphasised.

The total number of carriers discovered was eleven and these are not included in the total number of cases.

The outbreak subsided at the end of March.

The following table shows the numbers notified and discovered in each month of the year in four age groups.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
0-4 years .....	1	12	11	—	—	2	—	—	4	2	—	—	32
5-9 years .....	3	14	12	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
10-14 years .....	—	8	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
15 years and over .....	—	6	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	13
Totals .....	4	40	30	—	—	7	—	—	4	3	—	—	88

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS					
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.			
	M	F	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	Total
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years ....	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years ....	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years ....	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years ....	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years ....	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ....	5	5	2	3	15	—	—	—	—	—

There were notified, during the year 10 cases of Respiratory and 5 cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis, an increase of 4 and 2 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1955.

There were no deaths from any form of Tuberculosis.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.—Nil.

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.—0.109.

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales—0.102 per 1,000.

## MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1956.

Site	MALES					FEMALES				
	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total
Palate	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tonsil						1	1	1	1	1
Larynx						1	1	1	1	1
Lung	1	3	2		6					
Breast										1
Stomach				5	5		1	1	1	2
Liver							1	1	1	1
Pancreas						1	1	1	1	2
Colon		1	1	2					1	1
Rectum	1		1	2						
Kidney			1	1	1					
Ovary						1			1	2
Uterus						1	1	1	1	1
Peritoneum		1		1						
Bladder			1				1	1	1	1
Lymphatic & Haemato- poietic Tissues		1		1		1				1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>

### Malignant Neoplasms

The total number of deaths from cancer and other malignant neoplasms was 33, a decrease of 5 on the corresponding figure for the previous year.

### Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District ..... 0.336 per 1,000 of the population.  
 Death Rate in England and Wales ..... 0.407 per 1,000 of the population.

### Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District ..... 1.512 per 1,000 of the population.  
 Death Rate in England and Wales ..... 1.668 per 1,000 of the population.

### Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Total Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District 1.848 per 1,000 of the population.  
 Total Death Rate in England and Wales ... 2.075 per 1,000 of the population.



